

What is claimed is:

1. A method for estimating carrier frequency and phase offsets of a digitally modulated signal, comprising:
 - (a) estimating one or more phases of a sequence of digitally modulated symbols;
 - (b) removing from each of the estimated phases an angle rotation introduced by a modulation format, wherein the rotation is determined based on a reference symbol;
 - (c) deriving a set of values from the estimated phases after removal of said angle rotation, wherein said values are a function of the carrier frequency and phase offsets to be estimated; and
 - (d) processing said values to determine estimates of the carrier frequency and phase offsets.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - (e) initializing the parameters of a Phase-Locked Loop with the estimated carrier frequency and the phase offsets.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) uses an unwrap phase function to derive said set of values.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the processing of step (d) uses an estimation algorithm based on the recursive least-squares method.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the processing of step (d) uses an estimation algorithm based on the Kalman filtering method.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the processing of step (d) uses an estimation algorithm based on the least-mean squares method.
7. A method for recovering a carrier phase offset and a carrier frequency offset comprising the steps of:
 - (a) receiving a modulated signal containing a plurality of symbols;
 - (b) determining an angular location of first symbol;
 - (c) determining an angular location of a second symbol;
 - (d) removing the modulation from the second symbol to produce an unmodulated angular sequence; and
 - (e) estimating the carrier phase and frequency offsets by curve fitting the unmodulated angular sequence.

8. The method described in claim 7 further comprising the step of:
 - (f) unwrapping the unmodulated angular sequence to compensate for phase discontinuities.
9. The method of claim 7 wherein step (f) is based on the recursive least-squares method to perform the curve-fitting.
10. The method of claim 7 wherein step (f) is based on the Kalman filtering method to perform the curve-fitting.
11. The method of claim 7 wherein step (f) is based on the least-mean squares method to perform the curve-fitting.
12. The method of claim 7 wherein the carrier phase offset and the carrier frequency offset are used as initialization parameters in a phase-locked loop.
13. An apparatus for estimating a carrier phase offset and a carrier frequency offset, comprising:

- (a) a phase calculator for estimating phases of a sequence of digitally modulated symbols;
- (b) a remove modulation module for removing an angle rotation introduced by a modulation format to generate a sequence of phase values representative of the carrier frequency offset and the carrier phase offset; and
- (c) an estimation module for estimating the carrier frequency offset and the carrier phase offset, whereby the estimation module applies a curve-fitting algorithm to the sequence of phase values to generate a linear function dependent of the carrier frequency offset and the carrier phase offset.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

- (d) an unwrap module for converting the phase estimates generated by the phase calculator module into absolute values.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 further coupled to a phase-locked loop to initialize the phase-locked loop with the estimates of the carrier frequency offset and the carrier phase offset.

16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the estimation module applies a curve-fitting algorithm to the sequence of phase values to estimate the carrier frequency offset and the carrier phase offset.

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